

## Comments

UTD366.

**From:**  
**Posted At:** Friday, February 22, 2008 2:58 PM  
**Conversation:** SITLA Comments on WSR-Draft EIS  
**Posted To:** utahnfwsdeis@fscomments.org  
  
**Subject:** Fw: SITLA Comments on WSR-Draft EIS

----- Forwarded by on 02/22/2008 03:54 PM -----

"Elise Erler"  
<eliseerler@utah.  
gov>

To

02/22/2008 02:36  
PM

cc

Subject  
SITLA Comments on WSR-Draft EIS

Thank you for the USFS-UDOT-SITLA meeting last week on Logan Canyon issues. We face more common issues than I realized!

I understood from Lisa Perez that you are accepting comments on the Draft EIS for WSR on USFS lands in Utah through today. I submitted SITLA's comment through official State channels this week; however, I am concerned that, with the State legislature in session, the official comments may not get to you before the close of business today. So, I am taking the liberty of sending you the essence of SITLA's Logan Canyon comment by email:

The State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah (Draft EIS), dated November 2007, for its potential impacts on SITLA land in Logan Canyon. SITLA owns a 2,850+/- acre parcel around the Beaver Mountain ski area and a 160-acre parcel at the Franklin Basin turnoff from US-89.

SITLA is supportive of the Draft EIS process, the identification and analysis of issues, and the development of alternatives. SITLA agrees with the selection of Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative that is tentatively recommended in the Draft EIS.

Several alternatives discussed in the Draft EIS have an impact on SITLA lands in Logan Canyon. None of the alternatives impact SITLA's Beaver Mountain parcel because the proposed river segment on Beaver Creek starts downstream (south) of the Beaver Mountain property.

Alternatives 4 and 6 do impact SITLA's Franklin Basin parcel. Both alternatives contain two (2) proposed river segments that flow

through SITLA's Franklin Basin land:

- Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land (Beaver Mountain parcel) to Mouth (see page 524 from Draft EIS for the location of SITLA land)
- Logan River: Idaho State Line to Confluence with Beaver Creek (see page 508 from Draft EIS for the location of SITLA land)

Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act allows management restrictions to apply only to public lands, in this case U.S. Forest Service lands, SITLA is concerned about potential impacts on the value and utility of its land by unknown or unanticipated consequences of designating these two proposed river segments as described in the Draft EIS. When the final EIS is prepared, SITLA requests that the U.S. Forest Service either:

- a) Withdraw these two proposed river segments from Alternatives 4 and 6, or
- b) Limit the proposed river segments to portions that lie downstream (south) of SITLA's Franklin Basin parcel by using the following revised descriptions:
  - Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land (Beaver Mountain Franklin Basin parcel) to Mouth
  - Logan River: Idaho State Line South Boundary of State Land to Confluence with Beaver Creek.

SITLA appreciates having the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS. Should any of our comments need clarification or further discussion, please contact the land manager for the appropriate SITLA property: Elise Erler (801-538-5179) for the Beaver Mountain parcel and Gary Bagley (801-538-5164) for the Franklin Basin parcel.

Thanks for the good work on the Draft EIS done by all the USFS staff.

Sincerely,

Elise Erler

Project Manager - Development Group

State of Utah

School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

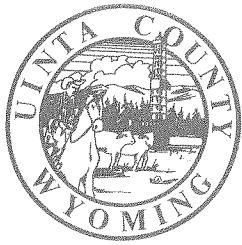
675 E 500 South, Suite 500

Salt Lake City, UT 84102

801-538-5179

el

iseerler@utah.gov



UTD377.

*Craig B. Welling*

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*Chairman*

*Mick Powers*

*Commissioner*

*W. Robert Stoddard*

*Commissioner*

# Uinta County Commissioners

Feb. 13, 2008

Catherine Kahlow, WSR Team Leader  
US Forest Service  
PO Box 68  
Kamas, Utah 84036

RE: Wild and Scenic River Suitability

Dear Ms. Kahlow:

The Board of Uinta County Commissioners, once again would like to express our appreciation for the invitation to be involved in the WSR suitability process.

As you are aware, Uinta County has been very concerned about the current condition of our national forests, more specifically and especially the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. While the greatest portion of this forest lies beyond our borders in the state of Utah, we, in Uinta County, Wyoming consider it home. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest is extremely important to Uinta County in terms of agricultural efforts, recreational uses and renewable and non-renewable natural resources. In essence, this forest is vital to many Uinta County quality of life issues.

The water that flows from the North Slope of these mountains could easily be termed the 'Life Blood' of our county. It supplies our municipal reservoirs, irrigates our pastures and hayfields, provides water to our livestock and wildlife and creates a whole host of recreational opportunities. The protection of these resources is an effort in which we have and will continue to have an extremely high interest. We in Uinta County have protected these resources for generations. It is imperative that the Forest Service understand the significant negative impacts that will be brought about by unnecessary regulations and restrictions. It is also imperative that the Forest Service understand and consider the impacts these unnecessary regulations will have on private property owners and their rights, including but not limited to the historical uses of timber and lumber production, livestock grazing, irrigation channels and structures, recreation and so forth.

You have listed several potential segments for consideration as wild and scenic that directly affect Uinta County. While all of these segments have unique features that must be taken into consideration, they also have important over-arching and across the board concerns that are common to all of these segments. In our opinion, what must be considered are the current resources these several streams support and sustain. Ranchers have for generations built, re-built and maintained an extensive irrigation system that must be protected. Our private land owners object strongly to this potential designation given the negative affects it will have on water resources and any further development in that regard. This designation will have negative impacts to transportation, mineral and


energy resource efforts, grazing and agricultural activities, timber management and healthy forest management projects. This designation to any or all of these several streams will significantly impact the social-economic well being of Uinta County and indeed all of Southwest Wyoming.

We also have serious concerns for the significant amount of tax-payer dollars that are spent on these types of plans, which in our view have little or no value. The Draft-EIS document you have provided for us to review is staggering in its overall size. One could easily assume that its magnitude alone is an effort to disguise the influence of environmental groups who have no conscious when it comes to impacts felt by local residents. These are the very same groups that broadcast their influence to many areas of the country they will likely never visit and in most cases are not exactly aware of their location.

We strongly oppose any of these listed waterways as being designated as wild and scenic. It is important to respect the historical uses and benefits of these streams and recognize that those efforts and individuals who rely on these streams are the very same who have gone to the furthest lengths to protect them and have been providing that protection for generations. These areas are public lands and any designation that would eliminate or alter the opportunity for the public to access and enjoy these areas should be avoided.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Board of Uinta County Commissioners,

Craig B. Welling, Chairman

  
W. Robert Stoddard, Commissioner



Mick Powers, Commissioner



RECEIVED  
FEB 19 2009



State of Utah  
School & Institutional  
Trust Lands Administration

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.  
Governor

Kevin S. Carter  
Director

675 East 500 South, Suite 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84102-2818  
801-538-5100  
801-355-0922 (Fax)  
www.trustlands.com

February 21, 2008

**VIA FAX: (801) 537-9226**

Mr. John Harja, Director  
State of Utah  
Public Lands Policy Coordination Office  
5110 State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Mr. Harja:

Re: Comments on Draft EIS for Wild and Scenic Rivers on USFS Lands in Utah

The State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) has reviewed the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah* (Draft EIS), dated November 2007, for its potential impacts on SITLA land in Logan Canyon. SITLA owns a 2,850+/- acre parcel around the Beaver Mountain ski area and a 160-acre parcel at the Franklin Basin turnoff from US-89.

**General Comments**

SITLA is supportive of the Draft EIS process, the identification and analysis of issues, and the development of alternatives. SITLA agrees with the selection of Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative that is tentatively recommended in the Draft EIS.

**Specific Comments**

Several alternatives discussed in the Draft EIS have an impact on SITLA lands in Logan Canyon. None of the alternatives impact SITLA's Beaver Mountain parcel because the proposed river segment on Beaver Creek starts downstream (south) of the Beaver Mountain property.

Alternatives 4 and 6 do impact SITLA's Franklin Basin parcel. Both alternatives contain two (2) proposed river segments that flow through SITLA's Franklin Basin land:

- Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land (*Beaver Mountain parcel*) to Mouth (see attached page 524 from Draft EIS for the location of SITLA land – emphasis added in description)
- Logan River: Idaho State Line to Confluence with Beaver Creek (see attached page 508 from Draft EIS for the location of SITLA land)

Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act allows management restrictions to apply only to public lands, in this case U.S. Forest Service lands, SITLA is concerned about potential

Mr. John Harja, Director  
February 21, 2008  
Page 2

impacts on the value and utility of its land by unknown or unanticipated consequences of designating these two proposed river segments as described in the Draft EIS. When the final EIS is prepared, SITLA requests that the U.S. Forest Service either:

- a) Withdraw these two proposed river segments from Alternatives 4 and 6, or
- b) Limit the proposed river segments to portions that lie downstream (south) of SITLA's Franklin Basin parcel by using the following revised descriptions:
  - Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land (~~Beaver Mountain~~ *Franklin Basin parcel*) to Mouth
  - Logan River: ~~Idaho State Line~~ *South Boundary of State Land* to Confluence with Beaver Creek.

SITLA appreciates having the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS. Should any of our comments need clarification or further discussion, please contact the land manager for the appropriate SITLA property: Elise Erler (801-538-5179) for the Beaver Mountain parcel and Gary Bagley (801-538-5164) for the Franklin Basin parcel.

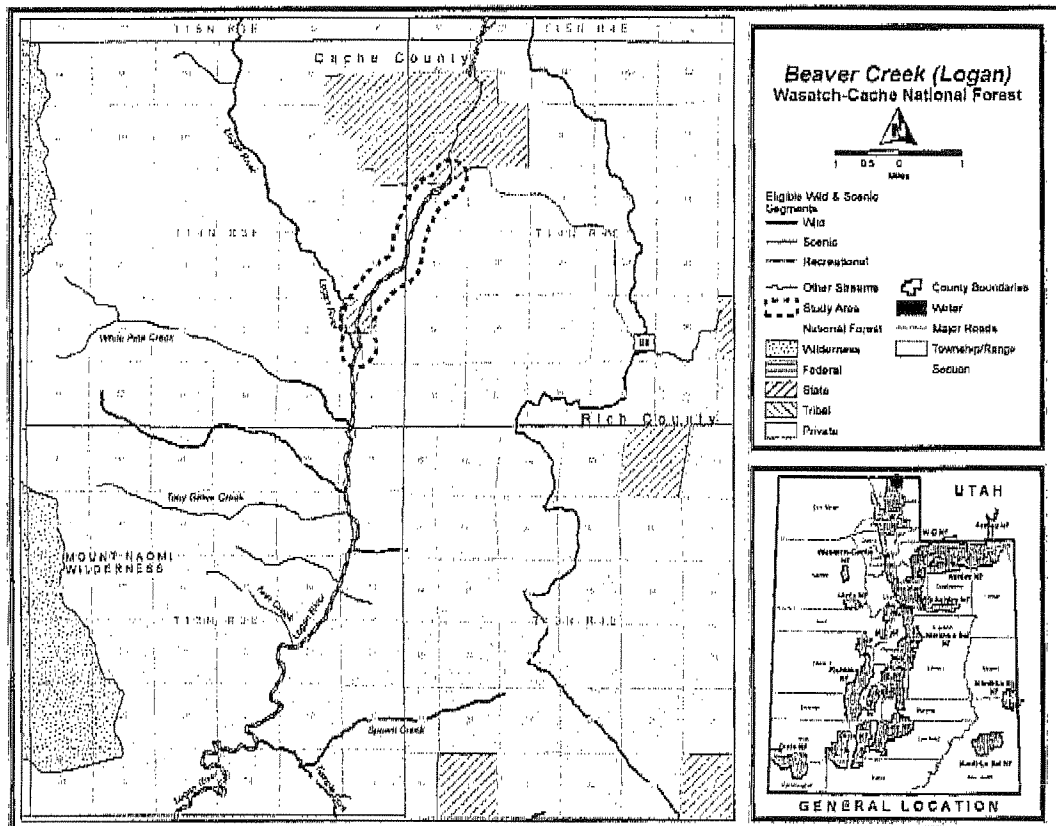
Sincerely,



KEVIN S. CARTER  
DIRECTOR

Attachments

# Beaver Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



## STUDY AREA SUMMARY

**Name of River:** Beaver Creek

**River Mileage:**

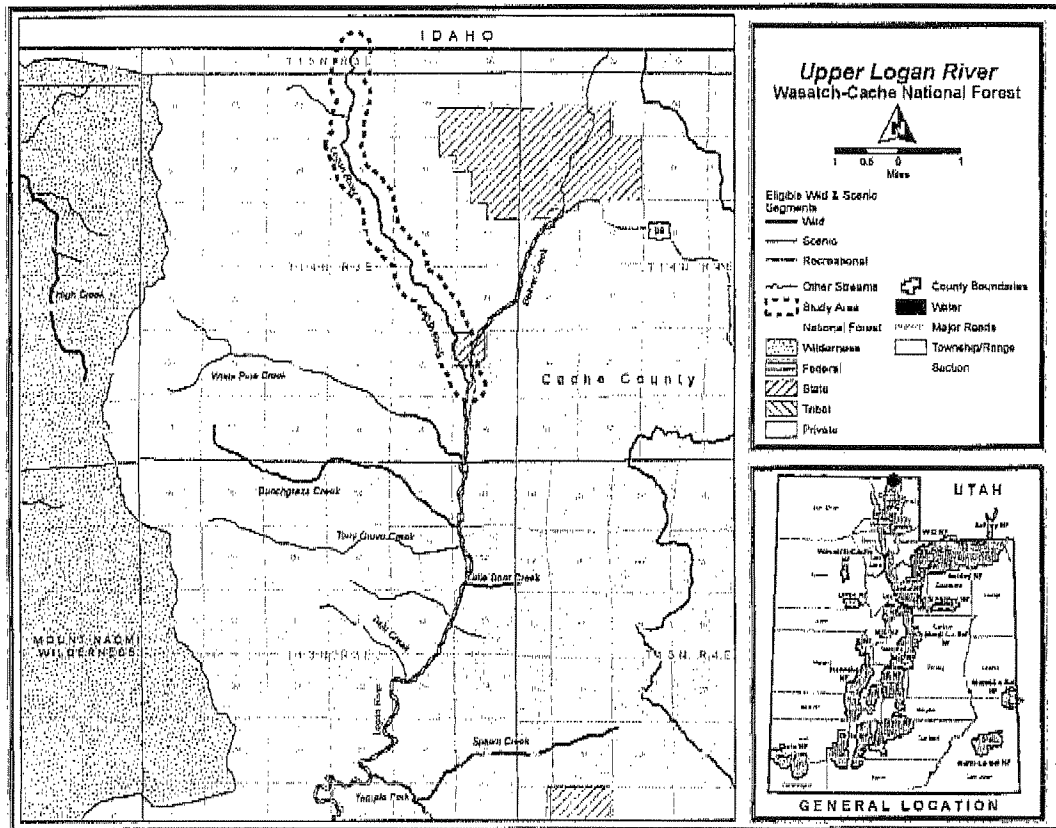
Studied: 3.4 miles, south boundary of State land to confluence with Logan River

Eligible: Same

**Location:**

Beaver Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 18, T 1 N, R 14 E, SLM	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 25, T 14 N, R 3 E, SLM	Recreational	3.4

# Logan River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



## STUDY AREA SUMMARY

**Name of River:** Logan River

**River Mileage:**

Studied: 6.5 miles, Idaho state line to confluence with Beaver Creek

Eligible: same

**Location:**

Logan River	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 34, T 15 N, R 3 E, SLM	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 25, T 14 N, R 3 E, SLM	Scenic	6.5

**Physical Description of River Segment:**



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Ken Woolstenhulme-Chair  
Sally Elliott  
Bob Richer

March 5, 2008

Catherine Kahlow, USDA Forest Service  
8236 Federal Building  
125 South State Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Dear Catherine Kahlow,

Summit County was asked to comment on the final listing alternatives for Wild and Scenic River designation for segments within Summit County. Our original letter of May 30, 2007 was a unanimous agreement on the part of all three of the currently seated County Commissioners that such designation recognized the enormous historic and economic impact on our County. It also pointed out our continuing stewardship of the headwaters which nourish all of Utah and Wyoming.

In assessing the segments recommended for inclusion in the final recommendation, several segments were omitted because of some very old agreements for water development.

In a meeting with Tage Flint, Director of the Weber Basin Water Conservancy, we asked him what future development projects were planned for the Weber River. He admitted that they were finished with development projects and that despite old entitlements; they had no plans to exercise any of those rights.

We have a particular fondness for Christmas Meadows on the Stillwater Fork. We understand that it was omitted from the final list because an old 1950 WYUTA agreement indicated that a dam might be built there for the benefit of Wyoming users. It might be appropriate to go to that group to ascertain if they have any current or future plans to exercise any of those ancient agreements. As you know, the Utah Travel Council recently published a magnificent poster advertising the grand scenic view of that special place. We seriously doubt that any group would want to take on the fight that would ensue if this place that is a favorite of so many were inundated.

There are other segments which were not included on the final recommended list that are subject to old agreements which are probably no longer valid. Could you please research some of those old agreements and consider listing the ones which no longer are being considered for dams?

As we have said many times, we treasure our close relationship with the US Forest Service and appreciate the special partnership that we have in protecting our valuable scenic and resource rich forests in Summit County.

Many thanks for allowing us to comment further.

Ken Woolstenhulme  
Commission Chair

Bob Richer  
Commissioner

Sally Elliott  
Commissioner

# TOWN OF MANILA

P.O. Box 189

Manila, UT 84046

435-784-3143

## VIA E-MAIL

Catherine Kahlow  
USDA Forest Service  
National Forests of Utah Wild and Scenic Rivers Team  
P.O. Box 162969  
Sacramento, CA 95816-2969  
[utahnfwsdeis@fscomments.org](mailto:utahnfwsdeis@fscomments.org)

Re: Comments on the Forest Service's Draft Environment Impact Statement  
Evaluating the Suitability of 86 River Segments on National Forests in Utah for Possible  
Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Dear Ms. Kahlow,

We, The Town of Manila, hereby endorse and incorporate by reference the comments submitted by the Wyoming Local Governments, Uinta County Citizens Coalition for Sound Resource Use, Larsen Livestock, Inc., and Daggett County on the Forest Service's Draft Environment Impact Statement Evaluating the Suitability of 86 River Segments on National Forests in Utah for Possible Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Sincerely,